

The Fad for Mascots in English Society

Pretty Marjorie Sargent in Rapt Contemplation of Her "Jade Rose" Talisman

Gaby Deslys, Whose "Luck" Dwells in a Tiny Mexican Hairless Dog

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Mrs. John Lavery, Wife of the Painter, and the Little Moroccan Boy Who Attends Her "for Luck"

Mlle. Dorina, of France, Who Dances for Londoners, and Her Hindu Image Mascot

Some Reigning Beauties and Their Cherished "Luck-Bringers"

IN spite of the war—or, perhaps, because of it—a rage for "mascots" has taken possession of many women of smart London society. Pet animals—including the human animal—weird and grotesque graven images and grim souvenirs from battlefields are among the cherished objects relied upon by these fashionable beauties to bring "luck" to themselves and their loved ones at the front.

There is nothing new about the mascot fad—it is as old as the human race. And now the sophisticated beauties of "Modern Babylon" are sharing it with the most superstitious of savage tribes. For once a familiar spectacle is reversed—in this instance society takes the lead and the stage follows.

For instance, Mrs. John Lavery, the former Chicago debutante, now wife of the celebrated English painter and considered one of the most beautiful women in England, set the fad in motion by appearing on all sorts of public and private occasions attended by a diminutive, chocolate-colored Moorish boy. He is so small that he might be called a pocket edition representative of his race; and when Mrs. Lavery publicly invested him with all the virtues of a mascot the craze was on with a vengeance. What Mrs. Lavery will do about it when the boy grows up remains an interesting mystery.

Another English beauty of the first rank, Miss Marjorie Sargent, was a close second. She is very fond of roses. So it occurred to her to have an example of her favorite flower created in jade. Her "jade rose" has become one of the most famous of English society mascots. It is said that Miss Sargent spends hours in rapt contemplation of it, firmly convinced of its qualities as a luck-bringer.

The mascot to which Mrs. Walter Rubens, wife of the popular composer of musical shows for society war benefits, pins her faith has qualities other than those attributed to the ordinary mascot. It is a crystal globe. For hours at a time pretty Mrs. Rubens is said to recline on a rug with the glass before her, "crystal-gazing," and thereby keeping misfortune at a safe distance.

Mlle. Dorina, a French dancer whom London society

has taken to its bosom on account of her generous usefulness at war benefits, of course was quick to adopt a mascot. It is a grotesque Hindu image, small enough to rest in the palm of her hand and be comfortably wheeled into bringing her and her friends "all kinds of luck." Gaby Deslys, naturally, was an early disciple of the mascot fad. Her taste turned in the direction of a very tiny Mexican hairless dog, which stands on its hind legs to promise her the luck she is sure it will not fail to bring her.

Miss Teddie Gerard, another English star favorite, carries about with her everywhere the hub-cap of a motor ambulance, which was shattered by a German shell at the French front—than which nothing could be luckier, in her estimation.

Miss Madge Saunders possesses a mascot prize in a fragment of a "Zep" bomb which fell from the sky in one of the German raids. And the list might be extended into the hundreds.

Mrs. Walter Rubens, Wife of the Composer, Finds Her "Luck" in Crystal Gazing